3.3. Numerals

The Dasenech numerals from 'one' to 'ten' are: tákac, naama, seddi, ?affur, cen, li, tiyya, síé(é)t, saal, tommon. They show an intermediate stage between Oromoid and Somaloid, in that there is tákac for 'one' (=Oromo), and tommon for 'ten' (=Somali). The other numerals are similar in Somali and Oromo, but it may be noted that Dasenech ?affur 'four' is closer to Oromoid than to Somaloid. The shape naama for 'two', is in turn closest to Saho-Afar. tiyya 'seven' and síé(é)t 'eight' require special attention because of their unusual phonological development. The shape siyyeed is known in Southern Somali and may be a borrowing (*siddet or *sizzet is the expected development in Dasenech). tiyya < *tVd(V)ba is entirely unexplainable.

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